



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN RECOMMENDATION 20210407-03e

Date: April 7, 2021

Subject: Menstrual Hygiene Day May 28th

Motioned By: Rebecca Austen

Seconded By: Flannery Bope

Recommendation to Council

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women (“Commission”) of the City of Austin (“City”) serves as an advisory body that advocates for and inspires the City Council (“Council”) and City Manager to prioritize women’s quality of life, so that Austin becomes the most equitable city in the nation for women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the average woman has her period for 2,535 days of her life, which is about seven years, and will spend about \$18,000 on menstrual products. Tampons and pads are subject to sales tax and not covered by food stamps. For women below the poverty line, this means they may go without menstrual products, which may lead to missed work and school; and

WHEREAS, Menstrual Hygiene Day was initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014 as a global day of action, focusing on what women and girls need to manage their periods safely, hygienically, with confidence and without shame; and

WHEREAS, on average, women and girls menstruate for 5 days per month, and the average duration of a menstrual cycle is 28 days. Hence Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated on May 28 (5/28),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission recommends that the Council declare May 28 as “Menstrual Hygiene Day” in Austin to highlight menstrual equity issues faced by women and girls living in Austin and beyond.

Date of Approval: April 7, 2021

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 8-0 vote, with one commissioner off the dais, and two commissioners absent.

Attest: *April E. Shaw*
April Shaw, Staff Liaison